

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An operation input device for allowing an operator to input a movement instruction to an object to be controlled, comprising:

a first movement detection unit for detecting the position of a first operation input unit which contacts and moves with movement of a first portion of an appendage of the operator, wherein the first movement detection unit has at least three degrees of freedom; and

a second movement detection unit, ~~connected to the first movement detection unit,~~ unit for detecting the position and attitude of a second operation input unit which contacts and moves with movement of a second portion of same appendage of the operator and which is connected via linkage to the first operation input unit, wherein the second movement detection unit has six degrees of freedom.

2. (Currently Amended) The operation input device of claim 1, wherein the first operation input unit and the second operation input unit are connected to the proximal end side of the device by a series of links of linkages so that the first movement detection unit is situated on the device proximal end side of the second movement detection unit; the first movement detection unit detects mainly the position of the first operation input unit; and

the second movement detection unit detects the position of the second operation input unit relative to the first operation input unit and the attitude of the second operation input unit.

3. (Previously Presented) The operation input device of claim 1 or 2, wherein the first movement detection unit has degrees of freedom for detecting the position of the first operation input unit and degrees of freedom corresponding to a change in an attitude of the first operation input unit caused by a change in position; and the second movement detection unit has degrees of freedom for detecting the attitude of the second operation input unit and degrees of freedom corresponding to a change in the position of the second operation input unit caused by a change in attitude.

4. (Previously Presented) The operation input device of claim 1, wherein the first operation input unit has an armrest unit for supporting at least around the wrist of the arm of an operator; the first movement detection unit detects the position and attitude of a part corresponding to the wrist of the operator; the second operation input unit has a holding unit to be held by a finger of the operator; and the second movement detection unit detects the position and attitude of the holding unit.

5. (Original) The operation input device of claim 4, wherein the holding unit has a control lever, and the movement of the control lever can be detected.

6. (Currently Amended) The operation input device of claim 1, wherein the first movement detection ~~unit forms unit and~~ the first operation input ~~unit to unit~~ achieve at least three degrees of freedom with respect to the proximal end of the device with the aid of hinges and linkages; ~~and links~~; and the second movement detection unit is connected to the device proximal end side of the first operation input unit of the first movement detection unit, and the second movement detection unit ~~and forms~~ the second operation input ~~unit to unit~~ achieve six degrees of freedom with the aid of hinges and linkages. ~~and links~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The operation input device of claim 6, wherein the second movement detection unit has a position ~~link unit linkage unit~~ for detecting the position of the second operation input unit and an attitude ~~link unit linkage unit~~ for detecting the attitude of the second operation input unit, the position ~~link unit linkage unit~~ connects two ~~parallel links, parallel linkages~~, and straight lines for connecting a pair of supporting points of the end portions of the ~~parallel links parallel linkages~~ are substantially at 45° from the vertical direction.

8. (Currently Amended) The operation input device of claim 6, wherein the position ~~link unit linkage unit~~ comprises a dead weight compensation mechanism for urging the ~~parallel links parallel linkages~~ in the rotation direction by spring force.

9. – 14 (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The operation input device of claim 1, wherein the first movement detection unit has a first sensor configuration to afford the at least three degrees of freedom, and wherein the second movement detection unit has a second sensor configuration to afford the six degrees of freedom.

16. (Previously Presented) The operation input device of claim 15, wherein the first sensor configuration has a first plurality of sensors to afford the at least three degrees of freedom, and wherein the second sensor configuration has a second plurality of sensors to afford the six degrees of freedom.

17. (Previously Presented) The operation input device of claim 16, wherein the first sensor configuration has five sensors to afford the at least three degrees of freedom, and wherein the second sensor configuration has six sensors to afford the six degrees of freedom.

18. (Previously Presented) The operation input device of claim 1, wherein the at least three degrees of freedom and the six degrees of freedom are independently detectable, by the first movement detection unit and the second movement detection unit.

19. (New) An operation input device for allowing an operator to input a movement instruction to an object to be controlled, comprising:

a first movement detection unit configured to detect, via a first plurality of sensor units, the position of a first operation input unit which contacts and moves with movement of a first portion of an appendage of the operator, wherein the first movement detection unit has at least three degrees of freedom;

a second movement detection unit configured to detect, via a second plurality of sensor units, the position and attitude of a second operation input unit which contacts and moves with movement of a second portion of same appendage of the operator and which is connected via linkage to the first operation input unit, wherein the second movement detection unit has six degrees of freedom;

a first calculating unit configured to receive outputs of only the first plurality of sensor units, and to extract only position information of a position of the first operation input unit responsive thereto; and,

a second calculating unit configured to receive outputs of both the first plurality of sensor units and the second plurality of sensor units, and to extract only attitude information of an attitude of the second operation input unit, responsive thereto.

20. (New) The operation input device of claim 19, wherein the first operation input unit has an armrest unit for supporting at least around the wrist of the arm of an operator; the first movement detection unit detects the position and attitude of a part corresponding to the wrist of the operator; the second operation input unit has a holding unit to be held by a finger of the operator; and the second movement detection unit detects the position and attitude of the holding unit.

21. (New) The operation input device of claim 19, comprising:

a transmission instruction unit configured to forward an instruction to the object to be controlled, where the transmission instruction unit is configured to forward the instruction as containing both the position information of the position of the first operation input unit, and the attitude information of the second operation input unit, as the instruction.